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— Sixteen Pages—

China has a famine, but with our varied

products and industries a famine is not

possible.

The British press is not pleased with the

Republican platform. It was not made for

Europe.

In spite of the hard times, the American

people are the best fed and clothed of any

people in the world.

The States and Territories which voted

with Mr. Teller for free silver have a popu-

lation of 3,982,631, which is voted

against him are 58,125,257 strong.

It is said that Charles Emory Smith, editor

of the Philadelphia Press, wrote the

opening declaration of the Republican

platform. Everybody says that it was well

done.

"The Silver Democrats are now on the

run," says the Democratic New York

Times. It looks that way here—on the run

after the sound-money Democrats with

sharp sticks.

No matter what party is in power, the

leaders of a faction of a party should not be

permitted to use one of the larger rooms of

the State-house as a regular meeting room.

The managers should have a hall and pay

for its lighting.

A Chicago paper says that the friends of

Boies are making an aggressive campaign

for the Democratic nomination. Is it possible

that all Chicago has not entered into the

Allen Wampler campaign, late of Arkansas,

and the Hon. Romus Stuart, and that they

are "ferried" Boies?

It is hoped that Speaker Reed will con-

stitute in Congress, for, despite his occa-

sional exhibitions of pettiness, he is an able

and purposeful man who has made a

reputation for integrity. The members of

the Indiana delegation speak in the high-

est terms of his conduct during the late

session.

Men from this city who have attended

many national conventions say that a con-

vention was never better cared for than

was the Republican at St. Louis. In view

of the recent calamity of that city, it is a

high testimonial to the public spirit of its

citizens that they met with zeal and courage

the responsibilities which the convention

imposed.

It is said that in Canada no campaign

buttons or badges can be worn between

nomination and election day. The

carrying of a flag as a party badge is also

forbidden. The penalty is a fine of \$100, or

three months in prison, or both. If they

are not allowed to "holier," either, it is no

wonder a lot of the Canucks want to join

the United States.

On Tuesday the most important election

will be held in Canada that has occurred

for years. The canvass has been most ex-

citing. The Liberals, who have long been

out of power, hope to win, but Conserv-

atism is strong in Canada. The separate

school trouble has entered into the contest

as a disturbing element. The only interest

in the result to the United States is that

the Liberals are in favor of closer com-

mmercial relations with this country.

There can be no doubt that the estimate

of the Department of Agriculture regarding

the wheat crop of Indiana, putting it at

75 per cent. of a full crop is erroneous.

The report of Statistician Thompson made

the yield little over half a crop, and the

Journal has reason to believe that if he

should now revise his figures, he would

give less than half a full crop for Indiana.

Experienced wheat growers who have been

investigating the cause of the rapid falling

off since early May find that the straw has

broken about a foot from the ground.

Have we a new wheat disease?

There can be no doubt that Major McKin-

ley gave his assent to the financial

platform of the platform as adopted by the

Republican convention before it met. Not

only does the editor of the Chicago Times-

Herald give the text of the resolution ap-

proved by McKinley on Friday, June 13,

but Gen. Horace Porter, of New York, has

telegraphed the New York Tribune that he

was in the resolution on Friday evening

on his arrival in St. Louis by Mr. Han-

na as that to which Major McKinley

had given his indorsement, and it was the

plank of the convention with a few in-con-

sequential changes.

Any sympathy expressed for Walling,

who has been found guilty of murder in

the first degree, is of the emotional and

morbid variety. It is no excuse for him

that he was induced to commit his part

of the crime by Jackson. He knew for

days that Jackson was determined to mur-

der his victim. Instead of interfering to

thwart Jackson's plans, he became his will-

ing accomplice. The trials of both the

murderers have shown a depravity which

has shocked the moral sense of the coun-

try. Two young men, who have been

depraved up in crime at common law, have

been given the opportunity of education, living at

times within religious influences, suddenly

appear to become utterly depraved and the

authors of a great crime. Even those who

are bred to violence and hold human life

of little account would not have committed

so monstrous a crime. Their letters and

their confessions showed that they were

conscienceless as well as depraved, as men

must be who boast of their crimes against

women. For the same reason that a mad

dog is slain these men should end their

lives on the gallows. Their living is a

menace to society.

THE EVOLUTION OF PARTY PLAT-

FORMS.

The modern party platform has become

so conspicuous and important a feature in

political campaigns that it would hardly be

possible to hold party organizations to-

gether without them. Yet many presiden-

tial elections have been held in former

years without the promulgation of a plat-

form by either party or any declaration of

principles by the candidate beyond, per-

haps, a brief letter defining his position on

some particular point. Washington was

twice elected President without any plat-

form. His character and record were

enough. In 1796 neither party promulgated

any platform, and the race was a close

one, Adams receiving 71 electoral votes to

59 for Jefferson. In 1800 the Federalists

again had no platform, but the Republi-

cans, as the Jeffersonians were then

called, adopted one in congressional caucus

consisting of eleven planks. This was the

first formal declaration of political prin-

ciples put forth by either party, although the

resolutions of 1796, drafted by Jefferson

and adopted by the legislatures of Virginia

and Kentucky, were tantamount to such a

declaration. These resolutions were con-

demned and denounced by the legislatures

of several States, and really constituted

the dividing line between parties for many

years. The Republican (Democratic) plat-

form of 1800 bears internal evidence of hav-

ing been drafted by Jefferson. Its polit-

ical ideas, especially in regard to constitu-

tional construction and State rights, were

such as Jefferson was constantly proclaim-

ing, and its style and phraseology were

plainly his. The first two resolutions of

the platform were as follows:

An inviolable preservation of the federal

Constitution, according to the true sense in

which it was adopted by the people, and

in which it was advocated by its friends,

and not that which its enemies appro-

prised, and which has been the basis of

opposition to monarchical features by

the friends of the administration, with a

view to consolidate a transition first, a

President and Senate for life; and, sec-

ondly, to establish a permanent govern-

ment, and thus to worm out the elective

principle.

This sneaking style of abuse by innuendo,

charging his political opponents with be-

ing enemies of the Constitution and mor-

archists at heart, was very characteristic

of Jefferson. Other resolutions in this plat-

form declared for the preservation of the

rights of the States, "a rigorously frugal

administration of the government" for

"reliance for internal defense solely upon

the militia, till actual invasion," against

maintaining any standing army in time of

peace, "which may overawe the public sen-

timent;" for "free commerce with all na-

tions, political connection with none, and

little or no diplomatic establishment." Here

are two planks in full:

Opposition to linking ourselves, by new

treaties, with any nation, and to the enter-

ing their fields of slaughter to preserve

their balance, or joining in the confederacy

of nations to wage against the principles of

liberty.

Encouragement of science and the arts

in all their branches, to the end that the

American people may perfect their inde-

pendence of all foreign monopolies, insti-

tutions and innovations.

There is no mistaking this style. Beyond

doubt it is that of Jefferson. On this plat-

form in 1800 and re-elected in 1804. From

1802 to 1822 neither party promulgated

any platform, and no nominating con-

vention was held. Madison was elected twice,

Monroe twice, John Quincy Adams once

and Jackson twice, all without any plat-

form, although most of the time party

platforms were distributed. This was be-

fore the days of national conventions, and

candidates were selected or agreed upon

by the respective parties in congressional

caucus. That spell-binding feature of

modern politics, the nominating speech,

was yet in the future. In 1836, the Whig

party held its first national convention un-

der that name and promulgated its first

platform, and from that time both parties

have held national conventions and issued

platforms in every presidential year. The

word "platform," as meaning a declaration

of principles or doctrine was derived from

the church, or at least was used in a po-

litical sense long before it was in a po-

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